

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ A method of preparing foam from a milk-based alimentary liquid for preparing a drink using a device comprising a frame including a support for a container, said support being associated with heating means for heating said alimentary liquid contained in said container when the container is disposed on said support, mechanical stirring means extending at least partially into said container, means for driving said stirring means, and control and command means arranged for automatically controlling the command of said heating means and said drive means, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a) placing a quantity of alimentary liquid comprising milk in the container associated with said stirring means;

b) commanding, via the control and command means, said heating means associated with said support to heat said quantity of alimentary liquid to a predetermined temperature while commanding said driving means for said mechanical stirring means at a first predetermined stirring speed being insufficient to generate foaming of the heated alimentary liquid, lower than a second predetermined stirring speed for stirring said quantity of alimentary liquid; and

c) commanding, via the control and command means said mechanical stirring means for stirring said quantity of liquid at ~~the a~~ a second predetermined stirring speed generating foaming of the heated alimentary liquid, which is effective to make said liquid foam.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the control and command means are arranged so as to maintain said quantity of liquid at a desired temperature during step c).

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the control and command means are arranged so as to adapt the quantity of heating energy supplied during step b) as a function of said quantity of liquid.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 3, wherein the adaptation by the control and command means of the quantity of heating energy supplied is achieved by adjusting at least one of the heating power and the heating time.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein during step c) the control and command means drive the stirring means in a discontinuous manner.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein the control and command means are arranged so as to drive the stirring means with a stirring interruption frequency ranging from approximately 0.3 to 0.5 Hz.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 5, wherein said stirring means comprise a rotating stirring element, the control and command means drive said rotating stirring element so that it changes rotational direction after each interruption.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said second predetermined stirring speed is at least twice, said first predetermined stirring speed.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to of claim 8, wherein the stirring means comprises a rotating stirring element, the first predetermined stirring speed is ~~comprised~~ ranging between 500 and 1500 rpm.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 8, wherein the stirring means comprises a rotating stirring element, said second predetermined stirring speed is ~~comprised~~ ranging between 3000 and 10000 rpm.

Claims 11-25 (canceled):

Claim 26 (currently amended): ~~Method~~ A method of preparing foam from a milk-based liquid for preparing a drink, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) placing a quantity of alimentary liquid comprising milk in a container having a stirrer;
- b) heating the alimentary liquid to a predetermined temperature while stirring the liquid with stirring means at a first predetermined stirring speed being insufficient to generate foaming of the heated alimentary liquid, lower than a second predetermined stirring speed for stirring said quantity of alimentary liquid; and
- c) stirring said liquid with stirring means at ~~the a~~ a second predetermined stirring speed generating foaming of the heated alimentary liquid, which is effective to make said liquid foam.

Claim 27 (new): The method of Claim 26, wherein the first predetermined stirring speed ranges between 500 and 1500 rpm and the second predetermined stirring speed ranges between 3000 and 10000 rpm.

Claim 28 (new): A method of preparing foam from a milk-based alimentary liquid for preparing a drink using a device comprising a frame including a support for a container, said support being associated with heating means for heating said alimentary liquid contained in said container when the container is disposed on said support, mechanical stirring means extending at least partially into said container, means for driving said stirring means, and control and command means arranged for automatically controlling the command of said heating means and said drive means, said method comprising:

- a) placing a quantity of alimentary liquid in the container associated with said stirring means;
- b) commanding, via the control and command means, said heating means associated with said support to heat said quantity of alimentary liquid to a predetermined temperature while commanding said driving means for said mechanical stirring means at a first predetermined

stirring speed of up to 1500 rpm and being insufficient to generate foaming of the heated alimentary liquid; and

c) commanding, via the control and command means said mechanical stirring means for stirring said quantity of liquid at a second predetermined stirring speed of at least 3000 rpm and generating foaming of the heated alimentary liquid.

Claim 29 (new): The method of Claim 28, wherein the first predetermined stirring speed ranges between 500 and 1500 rpm and the second predetermined stirring speed ranges between 3000 and 10000 rpm.

Claim 30 (new): A method of preparing foam from a milk-based liquid for preparing a drink, the method comprising:

- a) placing a quantity of alimentary liquid in a container having a stirrer;
- b) heating the alimentary liquid to a predetermined temperature while stirring the liquid with stirring means at a first predetermined stirring speed ranging of up to 1500 rpm and being insufficient to generate foaming of the heated alimentary liquid; and
- c) stirring said liquid with stirring means at a second predetermined stirring speed of at least 3000 rpm and generating foaming of the heated alimentary liquid.

Claim 31 (new): The method of Claim 30, wherein the first predetermined stirring speed ranges between 500 and 1500 rpm and the second predetermined stirring speed ranges between 3000 and 10000 rpm.